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A local lawn-care expert thinks liquid fertilizer was used to write "Go Riders" on a berm surrounding the University of Manitoba and Investors Group Field after last Friday's game. SHANE GIBSON/METRO

Rider writers blight Bombers' berm

'GO RIDERS.' Could be weeks before message grown in lawn outside the stadium disappears

SHANE GIBSON
shane.gibson@metronews.ca

Who knew banjo-pickin' Saskatchewan Roughriders fans also have green thumbs?

This week, large letters began glowing Rider green out of the otherwise brown grass on a berm surrounding the University of Manitoba campus and the Blue Bombers' stadium.

Now the phrase "Go Riders" greets Bomber fans as they turn off Pembina Highway on their way to home games.

From a distance the "lawn art" looks like it's been spray-painted, but a closer look reveals the letters are just brighter than the surrounding grass.

So is the grass somehow greener for Rider fans? Not so, said Dana Kapusta, co-owner of Nutri-Lawn in Winnipeg.

"They probably had a backpack sprayer filled with liquid fertilizer," he said. "And that's some big letters.... You'd be looking at a two-man job."

Kapusta figures the melonheads were experienced.

"It's impressive," conceded the Bomber fan. "If you apply too much you're going to kill the grass, so somebody knew what they were doing."

Judging by the colour of the grass, Kapusta thinks the deed was likely done last Friday and that it'll take at least two weeks for the message to vanish.

Both the Bombers and the Riders declined to comment on the prank Wednesday.

WITH FILES FROM MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO IN SASKATOON

Remarks from Rider Nation

"It's very inappropriate. That's not how fans should cheer on their team.... That's downgrading the other team."

Germaine Mason, who's supported the Riders for the past 10 years

"It makes me feel proud to be a Rider. We've got jokers out there who would take time out of their day to travel to other cities and spread the happiness."

Cailean Duke, a lifelong Rider supporter

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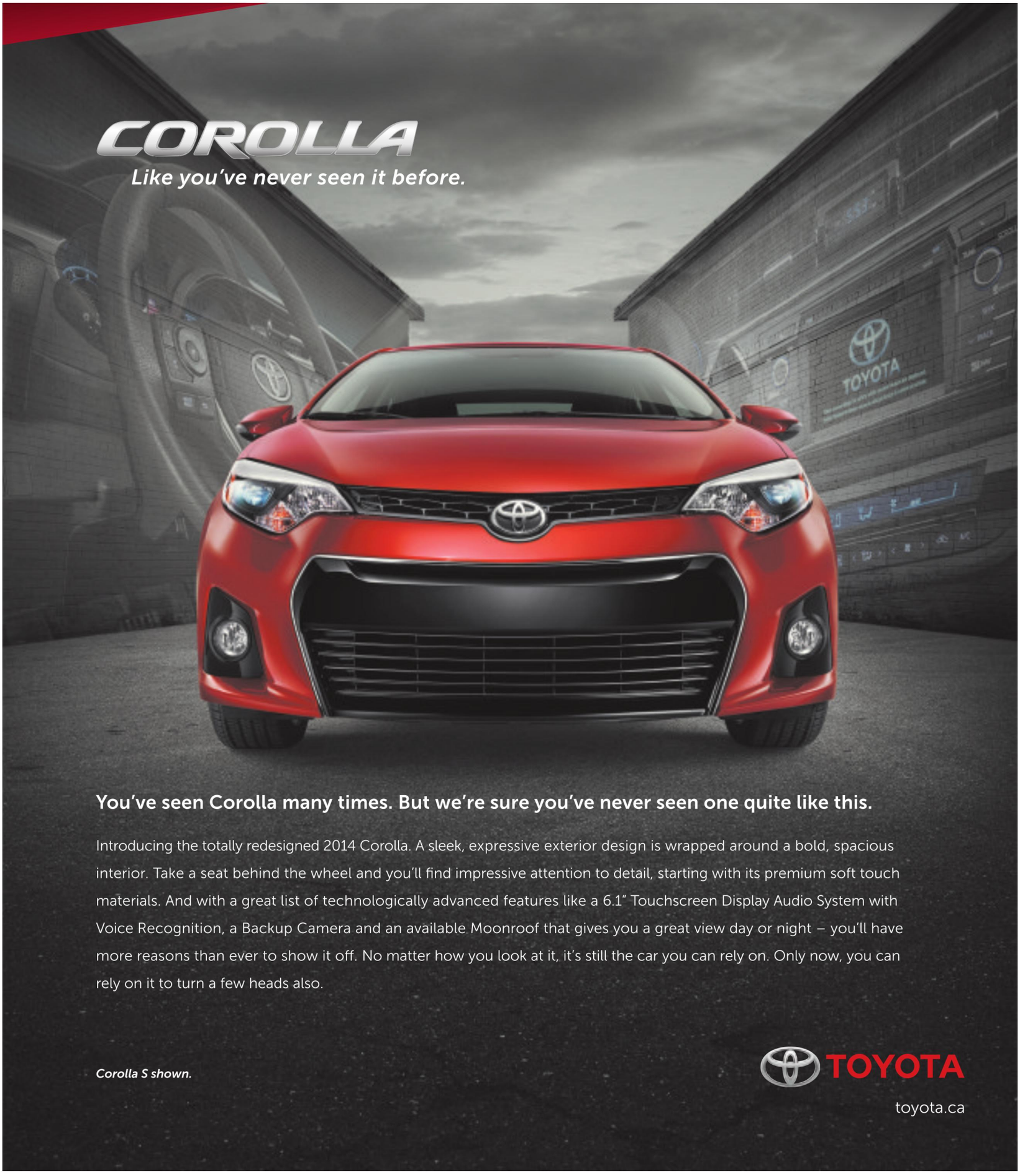

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Burlesque fundraiser

New documents show apology drafted for minister

Documents obtained by The Canadian Press shed new light on the government's response to a controversy that erupted after Eric Robinson criticized a burlesque show fundraiser at the Osborne House women's shelter in Winnipeg.

Robinson had told a staffer in his department that the fundraiser was inappropriate and revealed the "ignorance of do-good white people." On Aug. 23, Matthew Williamson, the premier's press secretary, emailed Robinson with a draft apology that said "I regret the comment … and I apologize."

Williamson asked Robinson to call him to discuss the wording.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Justice Murray Sinclair

More teaching about residential schools: Chair

The chairman of Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission says all professions should have to undergo mandatory training about residential schools as the country tries to undo some of the deep-seeded trauma inflicted by the policy to "take the Indian out of the child."

Justice Murray Sinclair told a suicide prevention conference in Winnipeg on Wednesday that judges are legally required to learn about residential schools and the same should be mandatory for anyone working with aboriginal people. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Kristen's #winnipegselfie

Twitter user @kristenL took this #winnipegselfie this weekend at the BDI. What's your Winnipeg? Take a selfie, post it on Twitter or Instagram with the hashtag #winnipegselfie for your chance to be featured in Metro Winnipeg!

CONTRIBUTED

Assiniboine Park Zoo. Welcome, new director

The Assiniboine Park Zoo has a new director, and he comes with a humanitarian background.

The zoo has hired Dr. Brian E. Joseph as the Assiniboine Park Conservancy's new director for zoological operations.

Joseph's background includes more than 40 years of experience in public and private aquariums, museums, nature centres and zoos throughout the U.S. His most recent job was as the executive director for the Living Coast Discovery Centre in Chula Vista, Calif. METRO

Dr. Brian Joseph CONTRIBUTED

EPC backs Castlebury Meadows subdivision

'Reached a balance'. Committee heard arguments and counter-arguments from developers, public service

It took some tussling over the details, but a new subdivision in northwest Winnipeg was given the green light by Mayor Sam Katz's powerful executive policy committee.

Plans for Castlebury Meadows, a 74-acre subdivision at the corner of King Edward Street and Jefferson Avenue, include single-family, multi-family and duplex living spaces.

Once the two phases are completed, officials with developer Terracon said it will boast 597 "doors" for an estimated 1,200 to 1,400 residents (at an average of 2.2 people per "door" or unit).

Phase 1

The first phase of construction at Castlebury Meadows will see 374 "doors," with 138 single-family homes, 126 multi-family units and 110 duplexes.

Source: Terracon

During the meeting, Michael Falk, vice-president of Terracon, argued against some of the recommendations made by the city's public service, specifically requirements to fund road-widening work along a stretch of King Edward that the development did not front, and fund making Commercial Avenue into a collector street.

Falk said had those requirements remained in place, he would have been forced to increase the property prices to $600,000 per single-family home from the $300,000 the company is aiming to start at.

John Kiernan, manager of urban design for the City of Winnipeg, answers questions posed by executive policy committee members on Wednesday in front of a drawing of the proposed Castlebury Meadows subdivision.

BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

"The committee heard our side of the argument and certainly public works and the city administration had some valid points, and I think we reached a balance," said Falk after the meeting.

"We're pleased we're going to move ahead with our development."

Falk said the next step is a former development agreement that they hope to have in place by the end of the year and shovels in the ground for February or March of 2014.

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Canadian man arrested in Somalia accused of beheading his 4 sons

'This man is crazy.'
Omar Hassan, 60, spent 30 years driving a taxi in Calgary, grieving mother of slain boys says

A 60-year-old Canadian has been arrested in Somalia, accused of beheading his four sons with a knife.

Local press reported that police in the central city of Beledweyne arrested Omar Hassan Sunday evening after his four young children — Yahye, 7, twins Idiris and Sakariye, 6, and Yonis, 3 — were found dead.

"He has taken my blood!" wailed the boys' mother Qadro Addawe, reached by telephone in Mogadishu. "I don't have anything. I lost my children and I don't have anyone to help me now."

Addawe, 29, said Hassan spent 30 years driving a taxi in Calgary, and she married him in 2005 in the hope of having a better life. "He's a (Canadian) citizen," she said. Hiiraan Online, a Somali news website, reported Hassan had also worked in Yellowknife.

Addawe said they were married in Ethiopia and then moved to Kenya, where they had their first boy. They went next to Uganda, where the twins were born, and then moved back to Somalia, where they had their last child in 2010.

Quoted

"I don't have anything. I lost my children and I don't have anyone to help me now."

Qadro Addawe, mother of four boys allegedly beheaded by their father in Somalia

Once established in Beledweyne, Hassan started threatening Addawe and the boys, she said. Shortly afterward, she fell ill and was forced to leave her sons in the care of a relative while she made the long journey to Mogadishu so she could receive proper treatment in a hospital.

Around this same time, Hassan stopped supporting her financially, she said.

She contacted Canadian diplomats repeatedly in an attempt to get papers to allow her and the children to immigrate to Canada but says she was rebuffed.

She received a call from the Beledweyne police at 8:30 a.m. Monday, telling her about the murders and the arrest.

"I have been his wife for eight years. I know his character," she said. "His problem, I don't understand. This man is crazy.

"He said he wanted to attack me. I prayed to Allah … now he's killed them."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Global arms trade

Gun lobby warns Ottawa against signing UN treaty

Canada's recreational-firearms lobby is telling the Harper government to avoid signing a landmark UN arms-trade treaty, arguing it could lead to an insidious return of the federal long-gun registry.

That's the message Canada's National Firearms Association and the Canadian Shooting Sports Association are delivering to Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird as he weighs whether Canada should follow the U.S. in signing the Arms Trade Treaty, which aims to regulate the global arms trade.

Proponents of the treaty, including U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, say it would have no impact on domestic gun owners.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Riot police clash with protesters in Ukraine

A Ukrainian riot police officer clashes with opposition activists in Kyiv on Wednesday during a protest rally demanding a re-election of the city council. About 200 opposition demonstrators gathered outside the Kyiv city hall to protest a court ruling extending the authority of the current city legislature. Skirmishes erupted when several opposition members of the national parliament tried to enter the building and were turned away by police. SERGEI CHUZAVKOV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Russia. 14 Greenpeace activists charged with piracy; more expected

Greenpeace says that 14 of its activists who were detained after protesting at a Russian oil platform have been charged with piracy, a crime punishable by up to 15 years in prison.

The activists from Argentina, Brazil, Britain, Finland, the Netherlands, Poland, Russia and Sweden were among 30 people who were on board the Greenpeace ship that was seized by the Russian Coast Guard following the Sept. 18 protest.

Two of the activists had tried to scale an offshore platform owned by Russian energy giant Gazprom to call attention to the environmental risks of drilling in Arctic waters.

Greenpeace says more activists, including two Canadians, were expected to be formally charged on Thursday and Friday.

Paul Ruzycki of Port Colborne, Ont., was serving as the ship's chief mate and Montrealer Alexandre Paul was also on board.

All 30 are being held in jails in Murmansk, a port above the Arctic Circle.

President Vladimir Putin said last week that he doesn't think the Greenpeace activists are pirates, which triggered hopes for their release. But Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev on Wednesday urged energy companies to adopt more stringent security measures and said the government should consider tougher penalties for those who attack or trespass on the grounds of Russian oil-and-gas infrastructure. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

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The grim face of Kingston Pen

PHOTOS BY FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

A trip to jail

Prisoners move out ... and a tour group moves in

They went to prison — and loved it.

Eager visitors lined up Wednesday as the historic Kingston Penitentiary threw open its doors to the public for the first time in decades.

About two dozen people entered its imposing bluestone limestone walls — the first tour group allowed inside since the last prisoners were moved out last week.

Visitors were curious to get a peek inside the storied penitentiary, where some of the country's worst criminals have done hard time.

They looked in awe at the jail's workshop area (top photo) and the segregation cells (left), which are little more than cages.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

And the future?

2015

Correctional Service Canada says the future of Kingston Pen is uncertain, but the plan is to fully decommission it by 2015.

Filthy rich and getting richer ...

We're doing just fine, thanks. Affluent Canadians tell researchers they've bounced back from 2008 market crash

You've always suspected it — and you're right: The rich ARE getting richer.

The majority of affluent Canadians are better off today than before the 2008 market crash, a new study shows.

A new BMO Harris Private Banking study covered well-off Canadians — those with investable assets of $1 million or more.

And it found that 54 per cent of them said their financial situation is more solid than before September 2008.

Only 11 per cent said they are worse off and 36 per cent reported that their financial situation is unchanged.

The picture is slightly better for wealthy Americans — 61 per cent said they are doing better, and only seven per cent said they are worse off than they were prior to the global economic crisis.

"High-net-worth Canadians clearly feel they have bounced back well from the 2008 downturn and are fairly upbeat about what the future has in store for Canada's economy," said Alex Dousmanis-Curtis, senior vice-president who heads up BMO Harris.

"However, we're also hearing from many of our clients that they remain somewhat concerned about global market fluctuations and they want to ... insulate their wealth as best as possible against a downturn."

But they're not shy about spending the extra dough, with the study showing them returning to pre-recession spending levels.

They are forking over more than, or the same as, they did prior to September 2008 in key areas — entertainment and leisure (89 per cent), travel and vacations (86 per cent), club memberships (78 per cent), clothing (75 per cent) and collections and hobbies (72 per cent).

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Quoted

"We are delighted to see such a high percentage of high net-worth Canadians opening up their wallets."

Alex Dousmanis-Curtis, BMO Harris

Glitches. Interac service up and running (mainly)

Interac was experiencing intermittent issues with its e-Transfer service Wednesday despite initially restoring service in the morning after day-long problems on Tuesday.

After having fixed the earlier glitches, the company was seeing some issues again and working to resolve them, spokesperson Caroline Hubberstey said.

The problem was again mainly affecting deposits, although a few financial institutions also had problems sending funds.

Hubberstey said most people were able to send an Interac e-Transfer, but when the notification for deposit arrived at the receiver, the receiver was unable to deposit the funds.

Several people took to Twitter to express concerns that payments for such things as rent might not go through or that they might be hit with non-sufficient-funds (NSF) charges.

Interac said its other services — Interac Debit, Interac Cash and Interac Online — were operating normally.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Protests. PMO relents, lets TV man cover Harper

A veteran TV cameraman will be allowed to travel to Malaysia with the prime minister this week after all.

Earlier, Stephen Harper's office appeared poised to scratch CTV journalist Dave Ellis from the trip because he asked an impromptu question during a media event last week in New York.

The TV networks fought back, insisting that they — not the Prime Minister's Office — should decide who to assign to cover Harper.

And now Jason MacDonald, a spokesperson for the prime minister, says no accredited journalist will be prevented from boarding Harper's plane.

During the New York event, Ellis asked Harper about the charges laid against then-Conservative MP Dean Del Mastro, even though reporters and photographers had been told questions were not allowed.

Harper leaves Thursday for a seven-day trip to Malaysia and Indonesia, and CTV had Ellis accredited to work as a pool cameraman.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Is he barking mad?

What's the poop? $500 for picking up after his dog

A Montana man who gathered and reassembled parts of five $100 bills eaten by his golden retriever has been reimbursed by the U.S. Treasury.

Wayne Klinkel's 12-year-old dog, Sundance, snacked on the cash in the family vehicle while Klinkel and his wife ate at a restaurant.

Klinkel picked through the dog's droppings to recover parts of the bills. He cleaned and reassembled them, put them in plastic bags and sent them to the U.S. Treasury.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Red planet's secrets

Supervolcanoes on Mars spewed huge lava clouds

Scientists have discovered ancient supervolcanoes on Mars similar to the cauldron-like caldera that sits under Yellowstone National Park.

Studying images from several spacecraft orbiting Mars, researchers at London's Natural History Museum and NASA found at least one massive volcano and evidence for several others that spewed huge clouds of lava and ash.

The new finding suggests such eruptions could have affected the red planet's climate and atmosphere.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Berlusconi swings behind premier in sudden about-face

Italy politics. Support ensures government's survival; Senate votes 235-70 to back premier

Silvio Berlusconi made a stunning about-face Wednesday and threw his support behind the government of Premier Enrico Letta in a confidence vote, acknowledging defeat on the Senate floor after defections in his party robbed him of the backing he needed to bring down the government.

Berlusconi's support ensured the survival — for now — of Letta's five-month-old left-right coalition. But it signalled that the 77-year-old billionaire's once-unchallenged authority over Italy's centre-right has wobbled as his judicial woes catch up with him.

Silvio Berlusconi listens to Italian Premier Enrico Letta deliver his speech at the Senate in Rome Wednesday.
GREGORIO BORGIA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

It was a major setback for Berlusconi, who over the weekend had demanded his five Cabinet ministers quit the government and bring it down, incensed at a vote planned Friday that could strip him of his Senate seat following his tax fraud conviction and four-year prison sentence.

But in a remarkable challenge to Berlusconi's authority, several allies balked and said they would instead support Letta's hybrid coalition to push ahead with necessary economic and political measures. The unusual show of defiance could signal that Berlusconi's influence has seriously eroded after two decades leading Italy's centre-right and being the main protagonist in Italy's political scene.

"We have decided, not without internal strife, to vote in confidence" Berlusconi said.

Though he tried to look magnanimous, it was the billionaire media mogul's first-ever defeat within the party he founded and which has achieved electoral success largely through his personal appeal. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Palestinian garden of tears

A resident of the Palestinian village of Bilin, near the West Bank city of Ramallah, waters flowers planted in tear-gas canisters Wednesday to honour those killed over years of clashes with Israeli security forces during protests against Israel's West Bank separation barrier. The unusual garden is meant to show that life can spring from death.
MAJDI MOHAMMED/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

China

Death toll climbs in city that kicked a hornet's nest

The death toll from a rare spate of hornet attacks in central China has reached 41 people, local authorities said Wednesday.

The Shaanxi provincial government said the attacks had plagued not only the city of Ankang, where 19 died, but had killed 22 others in two adjacent cities.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nude pics of exes

California bans 'revenge porn'

California Gov. Jerry Brown on Tuesday signed a bill outlawing so-called "revenge porn" for people who post naked photos of their exes after bitter breakups. The law takes effect immediately. The penalty is up to six months in jail and a $1,000 US fine.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Rob Ford stands by friend slapped with four drug charges

Out on bail. 'Good guy' and occasional driver for T.O. mayor accused of trafficking marijuana

Mayor Rob Ford addresses reporters by a gas station in Toronto on Wednesday regarding the arrest of his friend and occasional driver Alessandro Lisi, right, seen leaving court. LEFT: TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE; RIGHT: NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto Mayor Rob Ford said Wednesday he's surprised and shocked that one of his friends has been arrested and charged with four drug offences in the city's west end.

Toronto police say Alessandro Lisi, 35, is one of two men arrested Tuesday after a search warrant was executed in connection with an ongoing criminal investigation.

Lisi is charged with trafficking in marijuana, possession of proceeds of crime, possession of marijuana and conspiracy to commit an indictable offence.

Ford defended his friend in an impromptu news conference at a gas station near his west-end home, saying Lisi is "(on the) straight and narrow" and he's never seen him drink or do drugs.

He refused to comment further on Lisi's arrest, saying the matter is before the courts.

Lisi appeared in court at Toronto's Old City Hall on Wednesday afternoon and was granted $5,000 bail. He has another court appearance on Nov. 12.

Media reports have described Lisi as a close friend and occasional driver for the mayor.

Torstar News Service reported earlier this year that Lisi was looking for a video that allegedly showed Ford using crack cocaine. Ford has said he does not use crack cocaine and that the alleged video does not exist.

The allegation surfaced on May 16 when reporters from Torstar and the U.S website Gawker reported they were shown the video.

In connection with Tuesday's investigation, another man, Jamshid Bahrami, 47, of Toronto, is charged with possession of cocaine, three counts of trafficking in marijuana and conspiracy to commit an indictable offence.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Defence

"He's a friend, he's a good guy, and I don't throw my friends under the bus." Toronto Mayor Rob Ford

Final report. Glee star's death ruled accidental

A needle and two empty champagne bottles were found in the Vancouver hotel room where Glee star Cory Monteith was found dead, according to the B.C. Coroners Service final investigation that ruled his death accidental.

Monteith, 31, died of mixed drug toxicity, including intravenous heroin and alcohol, according to coroner Claire Thompson.

The Canadian actor was found dead by hotel staff when he failed to check out of his room at Vancouver's downtown Fairmont Pacific Rim Hotel around noon on July 13.

Drug paraphernalia, including a spoon with drug residue, a hypodermic needle and two empty champagne bottles and glasses were found at the scene, the report stated.

Monteith had gone out with friends before returning to his room alone at 2:16 a.m., according to hotel surveillance video.

He was not seen alive again.

The report confirms Monteith's much-discussed history of drug use along with his stints in rehab.

It hints that his recent abstinence could have played a role in his death.

"If someone has abstained from using opioids (which include heroin) for a period of time, tolerance may be lessened," the report stated.

This is the final comment the coroner will make on the investigation.

EMILY JACKSON/METRO IN VANCOUVER

Cory Monteith THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

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Response deadline: November 30, 2013

Manitoba

Publishing

Author Tom Clancy dies at 66

Tom Clancy in 1998
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Tom Clancy, whose high-tech, Cold War thrillers such as The Hunt for Red October and Patriot Games made him the most influential military novelist of his time, has died. He was 66. His publisher estimated that worldwide sales of his novels top 100 million copies. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dallas

Expert didn't think Cuban was barred from selling shares

A financial expert is telling jurors in Mark Cuban's insider-trading trial that he talked to the billionaire about a transaction that would lower the value of one of his stock holdings.

Arnold Owen testified that he didn't think Cuban was barred from selling his shares in a Canadian company, Momma.com, or required to keep their 2004 phone call confidential.

Owen was working for an investment bank hired by the search-engine company to find investors for a stock offering. The offering lowered the value of the company's previous shares, including 600,000 that Cuban owned.

The Securities and Exchange Commission says Cuban avoided $750,000 US in losses by using inside information to sell his shares.
THE ASSOCIATED PERSS

Market Minute

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TSX
12,839 (-8.44)

OIL
$104.10 US (+$2.06)

GOLD
$1,320.70 US (+$34.60)

Natural gas: $3.54 US (-7¢)
Dow Jones: 15,133.14 (-58.56)

U.S. budget battle. Both sides predict shutdown could last for 2 weeks

Furloughed government workers protest in Washington. WIN MCNAMEE/GETTY IMAGES

U.S. President Barack Obama brought top lawmakers to the White House on Wednesday as Republicans rejected Democratic demands to vote on legislation ending a two-day partial government shutdown without changes to the nation's three-year-old health care law.

Despite the meeting, White House press secretary Jay Carney said sharply that Obama "will not offer concessions to Republicans in exchange for not tanking the economy."

With the nation's ability to borrow money soon to lapse, Republicans and Democrats alike said the shutdown that has idled some 800,000 federal workers could last for two weeks or more, obliging a divided government to grapple with both issues at the same time.

House Republicans have brought a handful of bills to the floor to reopen portions of the government, including veterans' programs, parks and the National Institutes of Health. Democrats labelled that a piecemeal approach and rejected it, and the White House threatened to veto the measures in the unlikely event they made it to Obama's desk.

"What we're trying to do is to get the government open as quickly as possible," said the House majority leader, Rep. Eric Cantor of Virginia. "And all that it would take is us realizing we have a lot in agreement."

Democrats were scathing.

"The American people would get better government out of Monkey Island at the local zoo than we're giving them today," said Rep. John Dingell of Michigan.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Upward trend. Web stocks regain some of their sizzle

Internet stocks are heating up again, just as Twitter is preparing to turn up the temperature with its highly anticipated IPO.

Consider what's happened in the past month: The once-scorned stocks of Netflix and Facebook have soared to new highs; Yahoo's stock has surpassed $34 US for the first time in nearly six years; enamoured investors just poured more than $1.7 billion US into secondary stock offerings by LinkedIn and Pandora; and Priceline's stock just broke $1,000 US, catapulting past its peak reached in 1999.

"There is great demand right now to invest in companies that could be powering the future, but it's a window of opportunity that won't last forever," says BGC Financial analyst Colin Gillis.

As hot as some Internet stocks are, the fervour is nothing like it was in the late 1990s when investors minted dozens of unprofitable companies with rich market values.

"The difference is that investors today are investing on value rather than on emotion and hype, as was the case in 1998 to 2000," says Jeff Corbin, CEO of investor relations consultant KCSA Strategic Communications. Many of today's investors are judging Internet companies on their individual merits and prospects for growth.

"Back then," says Corbin, "just by including the word 'Internet' in a company description or name gave rise to a multi-million if not billion-dollar valuation."
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

What to do with a 3D printer? Try to copy yourself

Technology. London startup is betting that printed plastic figurines will be a hot keepsake

KIERON MONKS
Metro World News in London, England

My twin is a perfect replica. From the haircut to the creases on his shirt, and the less-than-perfect posture, he is a mirror image. But at 15 centimeters tall, my twin appears to have been zapped by a shrink ray.

The truth is only slightly less like science fiction. The clone has been freshly printed from plastic, using an "experimental technique" by London, England, tech startup Levavo.

To create Kieron 2, I stood in a studio surrounded by over 60 cameras that scanned and measured me, using photogrammetry to accurately extract features, before feeding the information to a 3D printer that uses around 400,000 colours.

The business is among the first of its kind, a product of the Polish brothers Marcin and Piotr Piosik. "It started from us photographing garden ornaments," says Marcin. "We realized the potential of 3D printing and bought 20 cameras to make a prototype."

Investors were impressed and the brothers began to produce commercially, selling the models for around $120 each.

Kieron with Kieron 2: Metro reporter Kieron Monks shows off his 3D-printed mini-me at the Levavo office in London, England. METRO IN LONDON

Customers find surprising uses for the figurines.

"Some use them like photos, keeping their family on a shelf," says Marcin. "Others like to have superhero effects, and one guy would get them to see how his diet was working."

The brothers aim to launch studios across Europe, and stay ahead of the game by constantly improving resolution and the materials for models. "We believe in the next couple of years we will have the same detail as any photo," says Marcin.

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LAND OF THE LOUD LORD

HE SAYS

John Mazerolle
metronews.ca

My landlord and I have a complex relationship built on a solid foundation of shouting.

Many people have landlords who treat their apartments with benign neglect, quick to respond to every tenant request with a blithe, "We can send somebody in about a week," even if the specific message was "FIRE!"

Well, John my landlord is not like that.

John is the opposite of that. John is this: a perfectionist and a busybody and 90-something-years-old.

The kind of landlord who stares at you through the mottled glass of his door like you can't see his distorted silhouette. The kind who stands on the front porch with a flyswatter (really), lest an insect sully his perfect patio. The kind who has appeared on Google Maps during two separate iterations, sitting in his designated spot, probably mulling where to find a flyswatter big enough to chase off the Google Car.

John is hard of hearing, so while he's being nosy, he speaks to you at a volume usually reserved for pro wrestling interviews. GROCERIES, HUH?! WHAT YOU GOT THERE!? YOGHURT?!?!

Have I mentioned my rent is really low?

I'm not a perfectionist, to put it mildly. When the tenant upstairs moved, John had me take some photos of the apartment so he could catalogue the "mess" that had been left behind, such as an onion in the fridge.

"How can anyone live like this?" he asked, as I thought about the rotting vegetables in my fridge, several of which had become radioactive and/or sentient.

That means every time he knocks on my apartment door, my life descends into a Benny Hill panic, Yakety Sax blaring, except the only half-naked person is me. When he arrives for the occasional maintenance visit, I throw my pants off, so I can open the door a crack and let him know I'll be "just a minute." This buys me time to, say, cover the tomato soup stain in the middle of the living room carpet.

Once I was dealing with a fruit fly infestation with vinegar traps when he unexpectedly knocked. I was forced to improvise with the vacuum cleaner, in a massacre I like to imagine the surviving fruit flies still talk about in hushed tones.

Maybe it's my fault that I'm a slob, maybe it's his fault that his idea of a reasonable warning is three knocks and a gentle "HELLO ANYBODY HOME?!?!"

Whatever the case, I'm happy. As long as my apartment is clean and affordable, I will put up with levels of eccentricity that greatly exceed the scientifically acceptable safe limit of 12 micro quirks per square metre.

How do I make it work? I believe the key to a successful tenant-landlord relationship is communication: that is, avoid it at all costs.

When John is friendly, I smile. When he's confrontational, I nod. Then I move on. Compare to the upstairs tenant, who has had at least three shouting matches with him since she moved in a month ago. Calling the police seems to be a running theme, so at least they have some common ground to work from.

If you'd like any further tips on how to deal with your landlord, I'll just need a minute to throw some clothes on and ask you to ignore any strange noises, such as explosions. But feel free to give me a shout. That's what I'm used to.

ZOOM

Gaza's tunnel smugglers bored

HATEM MOUSSA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

No goods transferred amid Egypt turmoil

A Palestinian man works in a tunnel in Rafah, on the border between Egypt and the southern Gaza Strip.

Since the summer, Egypt's military has tried to destroy or seal off most of the smuggling tunnels under the Gaza-Egypt border, a consequence of the heightened tensions between Cairo and the Hamas government in Gaza. The tunnels once employed thousands of young men in Gaza. By early September, with most tunnels closed, only a few tunnel workers reported to their jobs for maintenance work. Some mask their faces with shirts to avoid identification while working, for fear of repercussions in case they were to travel to Egypt in the future.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A solution to a blockade

- The tunnels have served for years as a lifeline for Gaza, home to some 1.7 million Palestinians.
- They became important after Hamas overran the territory in 2007, prompting Israel and Hosni Mubarak to impose a border blockade.

Fuel, construction goods

"We have no other alternative but to work in these tunnels. They are the only crossing to bring needed goods to Gaza."

Hussam Rashwan, tunnel worker
Some workers began digging new tunnels to replace the ones destroyed by the Egyptian security forces.

Clickbait

HANNAH ZITNER
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Just because you don't live in a city with an international art biennale, world class art gallery or well-known film fest, doesn't mean you have to be left in the cultural dark. These podcasts will keep you tuned into the world of art and culture.

ARI PERILSTEIN/GETTY IMAGES

Bullseye:
In-depth interviews about 'all things awesome,' Jesse Thorn likens himself to a Conan O'Brien, but safe for pubic radio.

LensWork:
Short snippets on photography, creativity and the art world — without the art speak.

SFMOMA Artcasts:
A monthly peek into the world of artists, writers, curators and musicians.

Comments

RE: O Canada, In All Thy Gender-Neutral Sons Command...? Published Oct. 1

When you have a mixed group, male and female, the masculine is no longer masculine alone but encompasses the entire group. For example, if you holler, "Hi there, guys," to a group of friends, the girls in the group are included in the greeting because of the rules of language.

English is not the only language that does this. In French, if you have a mixed group of men and women, the pronoun used is 'Ils.' It means all of them. In Spanish, if you have a mixed group, the pronoun used is 'Ellos,' the plural masculine form which now includes the women, too.

'In all thy sons command' implies sons and daughters. It leaves no one out. I lament that these women, who claim to represent all women (yeah, right) didn't pay more attention to their education. It's important to learn about the world and I would think that language would be a good skill to have.

Get a grip! You make me embarrassed of my own gender.

Hazel May Lebrun posted to metronews.ca

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU: Send us your comments: winnipegletters@metronews.ca

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The good kind of Cancer

Bat Cancer's alter-ego.
Metal/punk band to turn into tribute act for the after party

BACKSTAGE PASS
Jared Story
winnipeg@metronews.ca

Toronto's Cancer Bats pay tribute to Black Sabbath with its alter ego, Bat Sabbath. COURTESY JESS BAUMUNG

Bats bloody bats!

On its current Canadian tour, Cancer Bats is joined by its evil twin, Bat Sabbath, a tribute to heavy metal pioneers Black Sabbath.

The Toronto metal/punk band first paid homage to the legendary Birmingham band in 2011 at England's Sonisphere Festival and subsequently did a 2011 Bat Sabbath tour of Ontario and Quebec, but this is the first time Western Canada will get to see these children of the grave.

"We'll do an hour of Cancer Bats and then have Bat Sabbath as the after-party, so once people are really wasted and ready to party, it's Sabbath time," says vocalist Liam Cormier, who is joined in Cancer Bats by guitarist Scott Middleton, bassist Jaye R. Schwarzer and drummer Mike Peters.

Cormier says heavy metal standards like Iron Man and War Pigs may sound simple, but they contain more than meets the ear.

"It isn't until you start learning these songs and listening to what Bill Ward is playing on drums against what Geezer Butler is playing on bass and it's like, 'Man, this is the jazziest shit ever.'

"The fact that Sabbath is so tight — that they can make all this stuff sound like one band — is crazy."

Black Sabbath may be more known for its heavy, doomy, darkness-inspired sound, but diehard fans know the band's albums contained many lighter, melodic, even fluffy moments.

"There's some Sabbath stuff that we do that's definitely out of my comfort zone vocally and that I probably wouldn't have ever approached in a Cancer Bats song," Cormier says. "Symptom of the Universe (from 1975's Sabotage), we do the whole song. We don't bail on that melodic part at the end.

"Also, Ozzy Osborne can fucking wail. His voice is super high. That's the big thing I've come to really appreciate."

Cormier sports a dress-shirt, tight pants and a cape onstage, a la '70s era Prince of Darkness. Why not go all the way and have Middleton slice off the tips of his fingers like Sabbath guitarist Tony Iommi?

"If we commit to getting blasted on acid, I think Scott would commit to getting parts of his fingers cut off," Cormier says, referring to Iommi's sheet metal accident at age 17 which forced him to play guitar with homemade thimbles.

Thankfully, Cormier doesn't drink or do drugs so Middleton's digits are safe.

Catch Cancer Bats/Bat Sabbath on Thursday, Oct. 10 at the Pyramid Cabaret. Tickets are $25 at Soul Survivors, Into the Music and Ticketmaster.

Doors open at 9 p.m.

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Who is Madison Beer? Metro talks to Justin Bieber's 14-year-old protege

Living a dream.
A single tweet changed this young singer's life

ANDREA PARK
Metro World News in New York

After school, 14-year-old Madison Beer spends late nights in the recording studio. GETTY IMAGES

Madison Beer's life changed when Justin Bieber tweeted a link to her YouTube video last year. The 14-year-old has been on the fast-track to fame ever since, and Beer has kept herself busy recording music and working with Ralph Lauren in the past year. Beer talked (and giggled) to Metro and shared her thoughts on Justin Bieber, the music industry, fashion and school.

How did you feel when Justin Bieber tweeted your video?
It was so crazy! I was such a huge fan of him and for him to notice me was incredible.

How often do you get to see him?
Whenever he's around I get to hang out with him. It's pretty cool that I get to see him.

What's it like to hang out with your idol?
It's awesome. I really look up to Justin a lot and for him to be able to give me advice and help me out and hang out with me and be such a nice person to me is really awesome. I'm really grateful for that.

What's the best advice he ever gave you?
I think the best advice he gave me is when he said there are going to be haters and people are going to be mean but you have to keep your head up and believe in yourself and don't let anyone tell you otherwise.

What's your schedule like between school and recording?
I usually go to school for a couple of hours and I'm in the studio until pretty late at night. I get pretty tired because I'm a really hard worker when it comes to the studio but when it comes to school I'm just like, "ughhhh."

You just released your new music video Melodies. What was it like to film your video?
It was literally the funnest day of my life to record it. When I recorded it in the studio, that helped me get familiar with the words and the melodies and it was incredible to see the outcome. I was so grateful to work with the people — the actors and the people who shot the video and everyone. It was just an awesome fun day and I got to meet so many kids and it was amazing.

You performed at the Ralph Lauren girls' fashion show — what is it like working with the label?
It is really incredible. I love him so much. I've always been a huge fan of all of their pieces, all of their clothes and their look. It was surreal to work with them.

Do you have any style tips?
Be yourself! I love clothes. Clothes are literally one of my favourite things on the planet and anyone who knows me knows that. I like to change my outfit three times a day and put outfits together and get creative. Rocking an outfit and being confident in what you wear is so important. Be yourself and it'll come naturally.

Oh, that's what I want to do

"When I saw Justin Bieber's movie. That changed my whole outlook on singing and the music industry."
Madison Beer on knowing when she wanted to be a professional singer

Do you have one thing in your closet you really love to wear?
Well, I love to tie things around my waist. I'll tie a flower around my waist or a sweater. I have a pair of Brandy Melville overalls that are so cute and I've been wearing them a lot — I wore them to Disneyland the other day.

I have to ask you — what are your thoughts on Miley Cyrus ?
I love her. I think that there are definitely some people who are like, "Oh my god, what happened to her? This is horrible." But I think if she's happy doing what she's doing and confident and having fun then I think it's fine. Maybe it's a phase she's going through. She and her fiancé just broke up and that's going to be really tough on her and everyone handles things differently. Maybe she's trying to get attention from him — I don't know. But I look up to her and I'll always be a huge fan.

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Playboy Clooney's model behaviour bags him yet another young beauty

It looks like George Clooney is completely over Stacy Keibler, if his reported sleepover with Croatian model Monika Jakisic at his L.A. mansion last week is any indication. The pair "spent hours talking and have an incredible connection," a source tells Us Weekly. That connection apparently began at a London nightclub back in May — two months before Clooney officially split with Keibler — where he and Jakisic "danced and held hands," according to the source. "He's been calling and texting her ever since."

George Clooney

Do not be alarmed, people of the U.K. — it's just Brad Pitt in his tank

Brad Pitt. ALL IMAGES GETTY

Brad Pitt's latest Second World War film, Fury, involves him spending a lot of time in a tank, so it's no surprise that residents of the U.K. town where they're filming have been warned about "loud and unexpected noises" and "intermittent controlled gunfire and explosions" during production, according to the Telegraph newspaper. "We wanted to warn people in advance so that they are not alarmed, but also we don't want people ringing the emergency services," a studio spokesperson says.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Don't Giver the role! Swift will ruin one of my favourites

ALEXANDRA M. CAVALLO
Metro World News in NYC

As most of you probably know by now, Taylor Swift has been cast in a small role in the upcoming film adaptation of Lois Lowry's iconic YA novel The Giver. I say iconic because this book, like, defined my fourth grade year. So, when I heard that T. Swift — she of the never-ending odes to the bad, bad boys who shattered her achy breaky heart and the nonexistent acting chops (you guys saw Valentine's Day, right? Oh, no? Me neither) — was going to make an appearance in a Giver movie, I was a little affronted. And by a little affronted I mean I was all, "Say whaaat now?" and SMH dramatically at my laptop. Especially because the rest of the cast is shaping up to be pretty alright — Jeff Bridges as the title carrier of all the world's pain and the inimitable Meryl Streep as the village matriarch responsible for assigning roles to the children when they come of age. Katie Holmes is apparently slated to play Jonas' mother, which I'm also not too psyched about but hey, she sort of lived the real life version of a woman brainwashed into believing a totally altered and whitewashed way of life was normal, so maybe she'll bring some real authenticity to the role. Swift is apparently going to play Rosemary, the girl who was supposed to become the next Giver before Jonas. And that's the only reason I haven't written a strongly worded letter to the casting director yet. I can take consolation in already knowing how she fares (spoiler alert: not well).

Twitter

@MorganSpurlock
With more than 800,000 governmet workers now off the clock, why are the jackasses who got us here still getting paid?

@MarlonWayans
The purge! Urlllll!!! Get it out. Physical extraction spiritual release blahhhh! Ahhhh!

@josswhedon
I'm not "book smart", and I'm not "street smart", but I'm... I, uh -- which was the one with books? I have that.

Michelle Rodriguez

Rodriguez finally and bluntly reveals sexuality

Michelle Rodriguez has finally decided to put an end to years of speculation about her sexuality. "I don't talk about what I do with my vagina, and they're all intrigued," she recently told Entertainment Weekly. "I've never walked the (red) carpet with anyone, so they wonder, "What does she do with her vagina?" Plus, I play a butchy girl all the time, so they assume I'm a lesbo. Eh, they're not too far off. I've gone both ways. I do as I please. I am too f—ing curious to sit here and not try when I can. Men are intriguing. So are chicks."

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Au revoir to the runway

Another season of style has taken us to New York, London, Milan and finally, Paris. We conclude Spring/Summer 2014 fashion month with a look at France's most fabulous and forgettable offerings.

KENYA HUNT
Metro World News

Stella McCartney

Stella McCartney took a more relaxed, understated route for spring, working with longer silhouettes in single-tones. There was a very clear no-nonsense quality about the clothes, even with the more decorative skirts that had the peek-a-boo slits across the thighs. These were clothes for the woman who wants to look fashionable, but doesn't want to think about her outfit once she's put it on.

Chanel

Karl Lagerfeld's sophisticated tweed suits and younger urban dresses, all in saturated colours and painterly graphics, were the polar opposite of last season's work, which was darker and filled with Karl's rocker-edged trademarks. Watching the show, you got the sense that it was about having fun and enjoying the act of dressing up — how can you not in, say, a dress covered in multi-coloured tiers made to look like silk Pantone chips? It's display on an even grander scale than the pedestal treatment a sculpture may get in a gallery. And if you're going to show off, what better thing to wear than Chanel?

Saint Laurent Paris

Say what you want about Hedi Slimane, but you can't deny that he seems to know what women are in the mood to wear. Critics were on the fence about his last collection, which brought back grunge. Grunge at Saint Laurent? Isn't that blasphemy? The clothes are undeniably cool and sexy, but Isabel Marant already got there first. No matter, this updated take on that French rocker girl je ne sais quoi will be all over Zara and the like come March, if not sooner.

Chloé

Clare Waight Keller's clothes were refreshingly devoid of any bold graphics and prints, and yet it still had that feel-good quality that has characterized the shows this week. There wasn't a crystal or sequin in sight. Instead, she showed single-colour, easy-to-wear separates and dresses in a range of desert tones that were like a palette cleanser after the gilded, print parade we've seen this week. Best of all, it will give some much needed variety to the shop floors next spring.

Akris

This collection ran into trouble with the prints, which made the clothes look more like something you'd see in Banana Republic than on a Paris runway. The wrong print can cheapen a well-made piece. Other moments, though, such as an ivory v-neck sundress with sheer grids and a white coat dress with curved, sculptural tiers looked pretty, timeless and flawless — perfect for someone like, say, Princess Charlene of Monaco who sat front row.

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JEANNE SPACE
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TWITTER HAS BECOME A COOL AND SUCCINCT WAY OF COMMUNICATING. IT ALLOWS ME TO BE ACCESSIBLE, INSTANTLY SPEAK MY MIND AND CONNECTS ME WITH ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE. WHETHER IT'S A FASHION QUESTION OR YOU JUST WANT TO COMMENT ON LIFE'S BIGGER PICTURE, I'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU.

Drinking in the boundless energy of @SuzanneSomers, stellar at 66! New book "I'm Too Young for This" aims to empower.

A truly mooo-ving afternoon @roseneathfair!

What a lot of vino! At a Penfolds' wine tasting @ShangriLaTO appreciating the finer things in life... #LChaim

The Kit

Canadian street style

Spotted in: Toronto

Ayanda

Teacher

What she's wearing
Blundstone shoes, vintage denim shorts, Forever21 V-Neck Tee, vintage Leo de Gennaro sunglasses, and NARS red lipstick.

Her inspiration
"I just wear what represents me… and I feel naked if I am not wearing red lipstick."

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Seeking success in style? Strut it like Beckham!

Super Spice. We have a quick chat with the fashionista as she hosts a lunch presentation during Paris shows

You had one of New York Fashion Week's most talked about moments when a photographer snapped a photo of Anna Wintour, without her sunglasses, smiling at little Harper.

It was great having her there sitting with David. I like to have them with me as much as I can.

Are you prepping Harper to one day fill your shoes? Will all of this be hers?

I don't know whether it will be Harper or one of the boys. My family inspires me constantly. I'm very, very blessed to have such a supportive family and husband. The boys would be at the show as well if they weren't at school. But they can't have time off at school. But it was great having Harper and David there.

It's interesting that you chose to have this presentation at the British Ambassador's House, would you say you've become an ambassador of sorts for British fashion?

Well I live in London now and my kids love it and my husband loves it. I'm proud of what I've achieved with my team and with how my business is growing. I'm glad that I can make women feel empowered. Because that's ultimately why I do what I do. We've achieved a lot in five years. We launched our e-commerce site a year ago, we're about to put the ready to wear brand on the site for the first time. So customers can really see the collection through my eyes. Separates, denim, two dress collections. I'm very proud of what I've achieved in five years. I'm really proud to be British.

METRO

Victoria Beckham GETTY IMAGES

Kindred counsel

"My family inspires me constantly."
Victoria Beckham

Value Village

Check out **valuevillage.com** for even more great ideas plus DIY costume how-tos!

#thriftortreat

Put down the boxed mac and cheese and no one gets hurt

"The whole wheat noodles and sweet potato up the nutritional score of this recipe, but it's as creamy and satisfying as a more traditional mac and cheese," writes Ceri Marsh in How to Feed a Family.

"I first made it when I needed to bring a dish to the Christmas potluck at (my daughter) Esme's daycare a couple of years ago. It's great any time you have to feed a big gang."

Ingredients

- 3 cups (750 ml) whole wheat macaroni
- 4 cup (60 ml) butter
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) all-purpose flour
- 2 cups (500 ml) milk
- 1 cup (250 ml) shredded cheddar cheese
- 5 cup (125 ml) grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 cup (250 ml) canned sweet potato purée
- Salt and pepper
- 1 cup (250 ml) frozen peas

1. Cook the pasta according to the package instructions.

2. In a large heavy-bottomed saucepan, melt the butter over medium-low heat. Sprinkle the flour over the butter, stir and allow to cook for a minute or two. Now slowly add the milk, stirring continually to stop the sauce from lumping up. If it's not thickening, nudge the heat up just a bit. Now add the cheeses and stir as they melt. Add the puréed sweet potato and stir well to combine. Taste before seasoning with salt and pepper.

3. In the last 2 minutes of the pasta's cooking time, add the frozen peas. (Who needs to dirty another pot?) Drain the pasta and peas in a sieve. Pour the cooked pasta and peas into the pot with sauce and give everything a good stir. Serve straight from the pot into bowls.

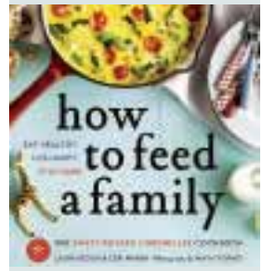
Sweet Potato Mac & Cheese

This recipe serves eight. PHOTOGRAPHY COPYRIGHT © 2013 MAYA VISNYEI PHOTOGRAPHY. REPRINTED BY PERMISSION OF APPETITE BY RANDOM HOUSE.

RECIPES FROM HOW TO FEED A FAMILY: THE SWEET POTATO CHRONICLE COOKBOOK BY LAURA KEOGH AND CERI MARSH. PHOTOGRAPHS BY MAYA VISNYEI. COPYRIGHT © 2013 SWEET POTATO CHRONICLES.

Cookbook of the Week

Make them come running to the table



Since the success of their site sweetpotatochronicles.com, a cookbook was a natural next step for working moms Ceri Marsh and Laura Keogh.

As with their site, in How to Feed a Family the two offer recipes tailored specifically to families. They are simple, fast, easy-to-follow and use ingredients that are readily-available at local grocery stores.

Interspersed with the recipes are parenting tips and advice to encourage happy mealtimes for the whole family. METRO

Throwing-it-together done right: Chicken Tray Bake

This recipe serves four to six people. PHOTOGRAPHY COPYRIGHT © 2013 MAYA VISNYEI PHOTOGRAPHY. REPRINTED BY PERMISSION OF APPETITE BY RANDOM HOUSE.

1. Preheat the oven to 400 F (200 C). Spray a large rimmed baking tray with cooking spray.

2. In a small bowl, whisk together the oil, lemon juice, oregano and salt and pepper to taste.

3. In a medium bowl, toss the chicken with half the dressing. You can allow the chicken to marinate in the refrigerator for more intense flavour (anywhere from 1 to 3 hours) but it's also great if you use it right away.

4. In a separate large bowl, coat the potatoes, zucchinis and onion with the remaining half of the dressing. Scatter the vegetables and garlic on the prepared baking tray. Arrange the chicken on the tray as well.

5. Bake in the oven for 15 minutes. Take out the baking tray and scatter the cherry tomatoes across the top of the vegetables. Return to oven and bake for another 15 to 20 minutes, until the chicken is cooked through and the vegetables are tender.

6. Plate appropriate portions for family members (make mine big, please) from the tray and serve immediately.

Ingredients

- 4 cup (60 ml) olive oil
- Juice of 1 lemon
- 3 tbsp (45 ml) chopped fresh oregano
- Salt and pepper
- 4 chicken wings
- 2 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
- 2 boneless, skinless chicken thighs
- 3–4 lb (1.5–1.8 kg) red potatoes, halved
- 1 yellow zucchini, chopped
- 1 green zucchini, chopped
- 1 red onion, quartered
- 6 cloves garlic, peeled
- 32 cherry tomatoes

App. Pears with Goat Cheese and Cranberries

"Even without soup tureens and gold leaf place cards, entertaining can still be elegant...," writes Laura Keogh in How to Feed a Family. "That's why we love this appetizer. Not the least bit fussy, it can happen in a snap."

1. Core pears and cut into about 12 slices. Toss them in the orange or lemon juice to keep from browning.

2. In a small bowl, mix together the cheese, pistachio pieces, cranberries and honey.

3. Spread the cheese mixture on the widest part of each pear slice. Arrange the pear slices on a serving tray and serve. If you're not serving immediately, cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate until needed.

Ingredients

- 2 green Anjou pears, cored and sliced
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) orange or fresh lemon juice
- 5 cup (125 ml) softened goat cheese
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) pistachio pieces
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) dried cranberries
- 1 tsp (5 ml) honey

Light up your living room

Tables and lights.
Part 2 of a series on living room decor will help you find the right accent tables and lighting for your space

Part 3

Next week: Artwork

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

In this four-part series, I'm serving up decor tips to get your living room looking fabulous in time for the holidays. In this issue, I tackle tables and lamps.

Size

• The lower the coffee table (14 to 18 inches high), the more modern it is. A higher coffee table (often referred to as a cocktail table, at 20 to 26 inches high) is a more traditional approach.
• The length of the coffee table should be two-thirds of the seating area on the sofa. Anything larger will be too awkward to move around.
• Two or three matching small tables can replace one large table and offer up flexibility when entertaining in a small space.
• The height of an end table should be within three inches lower or higher than the sofa arm.
• Try to find an end table that is almost as deep as the sofa — this will maximize space and offer more tabletop display surface.

Style

• Coffee and end tables don't have to match each other.
• If you have a casual household (young children, movie nights and slumber parties) then wood tables or upholstered ottomans (with trays on top) might be a better option for you.
• Glass-topped tables work better where formal entertaining is done.
• If you want to mix and match tables, wood and/or metal tones should be similar to other furnishings or accessories in the room.
• Tables that also offer storage are perfect for small spaces.

Cost

• The price depends on the level of quality.
• A beat-up storage trunk found on the side of the road could be the perfect solution for cottage-style decor, whereas a wooden English side table could cost you thousands of dollars.
• Rule of thumb: Your coffee table should cost about 30 per cent of the cost of your sofa.
• An inexpensive end table can look like a million bucks when topped with a fitted marble top.

Mixing and matching tables helps create an eclectic living room. cb2.com.

An alternative to a coffee table is an ottoman with storage. Jess Storage Ottoman, $1,250, modern-countryinteriors.com.

Make sure you take the height and style of your sofa into consideration when choosing an end table. Original Cottage end table, $129, sears.ca.

Discrete elbow-armed floor lamps are perfect for reading and fit with almost any style. Dainolite Chrome Floor Lamp $200, livinglighting.com.

Every room needs three types of lighting. Here's what you need in your living room:

Overhead: Try recessed lighting or pot lighting. These lights are used to brighten dark corners or walkways and illuminate paintings.

Ambient: This includes dimmed lights you leave on when you go out at night. A picture light, small candlestick lamps, plug-in night lights and battery-operated candles all help to create ambience in a room at night.

Task: Reading lamps are most popular. I like an elbow-angled floor lamp that can be moved when not in use.

Nailheads hit just the right note

Adler's acrylic obelisk filled with nails. JONATHAN ADLER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

If you lived in a comfortable home in 17th century France or 19th century England, your chairs might well have been embellished with nailhead trim. It was a clever, decorative way for craftsmen to secure materials to upholstered furniture.

Another traditional fastener, the rivet, was also commonplace in manufacturing and shipbuilding centuries ago.

Now, both nailheads and rivets are having a moment in contemporary decor. On some pieces, they reinforce traditional elegance. On others, they offer an urban, edgier esthetic.

"We're seeing nailhead trim — this 400-year-old detail — in lots of new applications, creating bold looks," says Seattle interior designer Timothy De Clue.

Lisa Ferguson, an interior designer in Toronto, trimmed a pair of armless coral chairs with a decorative, antique-brass nailhead design along the skirt. She says both brass and warm satin detailing evoke classic glamour.

"It almost always gives the perception of a more luxurious piece, while adding texture," Ferguson says.

But be mindful of inexpensive trims if you want a luxe look, she adds.

"Attention to detail and craftsmanship is what differentiates the good from the best. Pay special attention to the scale and spacing of the nail heads in relation to the piece of furniture, and always go for metal individual heads over rows of plastic if it is in your budget," she says.

Ballard Designs has a selection of headboards you can customize in different fabrics and finish with brass or silver nailheads.

Homegoods offers slipper chairs in fun colours like peony pink, lime green and rich purple, embellished with silvery trim.

Nailhead trim works well with textured materials; Jayson Home's Bretton shelf unit is covered in burlap and trimmed in brass nails.

Jayson Home also plays off the vintage industrial vibe in today's decor with rivet detailing on distressed-iron and steel side tables.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jonathan Adler

Designer Jonathan Adler is a fan of the nail.

- His Channing screen, named after Bette Davis' character in the movie All About Eve, is a white lacquered room divider studded with polished nickel nail heads.
- He also plays with the motif in an irreverent tabletop confection: a clear acrylic obelisk filled with construction nails.

Adler's Channing screen, in white lacquer with polished nickel nailheads. JONATHAN ADLER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

metro

FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYERS

Thursday, October 3, 2013

There are many communities, designs, and builders to choose from, so read advertisements, browse builder websites, visit home shows and model show homes to get a feel for what your dream home is. ISTOCK/THINKSTOCK

Informed shoppers are best shoppers

LESLEY SCORGIE
For Metro

Maybe you have been dreaming up blueprints for years or simply stumbled upon a community where you would like to build your new home. Whatever the case, put on your savvy shopper hat and get informed.

There are many communities, designs, and builders to choose from, so read advertisements, browse builder websites, visit home shows and model show homes to get a feel for what your dream home is. Make a list of your need-to-have and want-to-have requirements.

Similar to resale homes, location and amenities are key when buying new. Investigate future development plans for roads, schools, shopping centres, green space and more prior to selecting your community.

When buying new, you are purchasing a package of services, not just the physical home structure, so you will need to carefully select a builder who is aligned with your goals.

Every builder will have a different philosophy on quality, speed to complete the home, flexibility with the design and the inclusion of certain finishings; some are standard like carpet floor, whereas others, like hardwood, cost extra and need to be included in your budget. Some builders require milestone payments throughout the construction process, in which case you will need your lender to design a mortgage structure that accommodates these. All of these items are negotiable.

Warranty and after-sale services are also very important so you aren't left high and dry with a lopsided door or faulty furnace. Before your home is completed, you will join the builder in a walk-through of the home to verify that the work has been done according to plan. If you are satisfied, you will sign a certificate of completion, noting any outstanding work and when it will be completed. This triggers the warranty coverage on your home.

Choose a builder with an excellent reputation and interview owners who have purchased from your builder. In Canada, most builders are members of the local Canadian Home Builder's Association (chba.ca). Ensure your builder is a true professional.

When buying new, you are purchasing a package of services, not just the physical home structure, so you will need to carefully select a builder who is aligned with your goals. BRAND X PICTURES/THINKSTOCK

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House or condo. Which is right for you?

LESLEY SCORGIE
For Metro

If you love the thought of hosting backyard barbecues and you don't mind cutting the lawn, freehold home ownership will probably work for you.

Freehold ownership is where you own both the physical land and the home on the land. This means you have full control over the property, subject to any local land-use bylaws, Crown rights or other restrictions communicated to you at the time of purchase. As long as you don't break any laws or violate permitting limitations you can do almost anything to the property, from remodelling, to planting a garden to building a fence.

Freehold ownership also means the owner is responsible for maintaining the yard, interior and exterior of the property. But if you don't keep up with predetermined neighbourhood permits, codes and standards, local residents can submit their complaints and the city can issue you warnings.

If, on the other hand, the sight of hedging sheers causes you goosebumps, you may want to consider a condominium.

With condominium ownership, you own the unit you live in and share in the ownership of common space within your building. Each month, unit owners pay fees to maintain and improve the building.

Condominiums are typically governed by a board of directors comprised of select unit owners, and the day-to-day activities like lawn maintenance and window cleaning are managed by a property manager who is employed by the board.

Because you don't own the building in a condo, you are limited in what can be changed. For example, if you want to install a hot tub on the balcony of your 21st-floor apartment, you would likely need to seek approval from the condominium board prior to hiring a crane. And condominiums have rules about things like noise and pets.

For many individuals that travel, condominium living is perfect. They simply lock the door to their unit and jet set to their destination knowing their property is secure.

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A reputable realtor can walk you through the negotiation process and help you stick to your walk-away point. ISTOCK/THINKSTOCK

Negotiations are part of the process

In many cases, your initial offer to purchase is simply a starting point for negotiating. Often, the seller will counteroffer, which means they will ask for aspects of your initial offer to be amended, such as the price, deposit or conditions. Buyers and sellers continue to swap offers and counteroffers until they have reached an agreement or choose to walk away from the deal.

When making an offer, protect yourself and your finances by leaving emotions out of the equation and knowing your limits in terms of affordability and conditions. Clearly defining a "walk-away" point will also help guide the process.

When the negotiations begin, ask for what you want, but be realistic. Don't offer $100,000 for a property worth $1 million. Base your offer on facts by reviewing and presenting information on comparable properties from realtor.ca.

If it's a buyer's market, disclose that you are interested in other properties. If it's a seller's market, put a human face to the process and write a personal letter to the seller.

Throughout the process you will learn the seller's needs and can negotiate based on those.

A reputable realtor can walk you through the negotiation process and help you stick to your walk-away point.

The interest rate and terms of your mortgage are also up for negotiation. Follow these steps:

- Research current rates and terms by reviewing multiple websites of financial institutions. Also check out ratehub.ca for the best rates across Canada.
- Speak to a mortgage representative or manager, and ask for a better rate. Keep what you researched in mind during your discussion. Most credit grantors will try to work with you to earn or keep your business, especially if you are a good client.
- To strengthen your position, present a competitive offer that your lender could match.
- If the lender doesn't want to play ball, take your business elsewhere. LESLEY SCORGIE

CFL

Ticats, Williams reach agreement

The Hamilton Tiger-Cats announced Wednesday that Chris Williams is free to sign with an NFL team, but they'll retain his CFL rights through the 2014 season. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Chris Williams and the Ticats had been locked into a season-long dispute. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

CFL

Eskimos QB Reilly returns to practice

Edmonton Eskimos quarterback Mike Reilly went through a normal day of practice Wednesday and showed no signs of any residual concussion symptoms following the nasty head shot he took from Toronto Argonaut defensive lineman Cleyon Laing last Saturday.

Reilly was knocked out of the game and the team said on Sunday he had suffered a concussion. He missed practice Tuesday but was back taking most of the reps on Wednesday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lance Armstrong

Cyclist returns bronze medal

Lance Armstrong's Olympic medal is back with the IOC.

The International Olympic Committee stripped the American rider of the bronze medal from the 2000 Sydney Games in January after he admitted to doping.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

20-year-old Mark Scheifele celebrates after scoring the Jets' first goal against the Oilers at Rexall Place on Tuesday in Edmonton. DEREK LEUNG/GETTY IMAGES

Young guns gleam in resilient Jets attack

NHL. Team hesitant to celebrate narrow win, but can't help but acknowledge glimpses of future greatness

Showing promise

"I was happy that our young players stepped up and played pretty well."

Jets coach Claude Noel, on the performance of young players like 20-year-old Mark Scheifele.

The Winnipeg Jets opened with a win on the road and saw good things from new players, but one day later the celebration was muted.

Coach Claude Noel said his players know they were lucky to leave Edmonton with a 5-4 decision in their NHL season opener on Tuesday.

"We recognize we won the game but we also know we're fortunate to win the game," he said Wednesday, as the Jets worked out but didn't practice.

"I think it's important to recognize that we don't want to be separating our shoulders right now patting ourselves on the back. There's a way to play the game and we're still trying to get to that process."

The game was far more wide open than Noel or team leaders like captain Andrew Ladd would find comfortable.

Both have said trading scoring chances isn't the way for the Jets to succeed, particularly now that they have moved into a new more competitive division with the likes of the Chicago Blackhawks.

Veteran defenceman Dustin Byfuglien was a major factor Tuesday with three assists and a far more physical presence than he displayed last season.

But the game also provided a chance for young players like centre Mark Scheifele and defenceman Jacob Trouba to shine. Both scored.

"I definitely think scoring early kind of loosened the hands a bit," said Scheifele, 20, who isn't exactly a rookie.

He played seven games for the Jets and scored his first goal in his draft year of 2011-12, before being sent back to the Barrie Colts of the OHL. He also played four games with the Jets last season before being sent back to Barrie again.

Scheifele is centring the team's second line with Evander Kane and Devin Setoguchi. It was a major part of Winnipeg's offence Tuesday.

For Trouba, the team's 2012 draft pick, it was his regular-season debut in the NHL. He was partnered with veteran Zach Bogosian.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL. Toronto benefits early from new recruits Bolland, Bernier

The Flyers' Matt Read tries to get a shot past the Leafs' Jonathan Bernier during the second period on Wednesday. MATT SLOCUM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dave Bolland scored twice and Phil Kessel added a goal to lead the Toronto Maple Leafs to a 3-1 win over the Philadelphia Flyers on Wednesday night.

The Maple Leafs are off to a 2-0 start and spoiled Philadelphia's season opener one night after ruining Montreal's. Jonathan Bernier stopped 31 shots for the Maple Leafs.

Toronto acquired Bolland and Bernier in the off-season to bolster their bid to get out of the first round and make a run in the Eastern Conference playoffs.

On Wednesday

Leafs	Flyers
3	1

Kessel scored his goal a day after he signed a $64 million, eight-year extension.

Brayden Schenn scored for the Flyers.

Bolland scored the go-ahead goal from the slot early in the third period. It was his first goal since the Game 6 clincher for the Chicago Blackhawks in the Stanley Cup finals.

He sealed this win with a power-play goal with 22.5 seconds left.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

4 SPORTS

NHL, players need to wake up to deadly risk of fighting

DAVE LANGFORD
dave.langford@metronews.ca

The date was Dec. 12, 2008, and the incident occurred in an Ontario Hockey Association senior AAA game in Brantford, Ont.

Don Sanderson, a defenceman with the Whitby Dunlops, became involved in a fight with Brantford Blast forward Corey Fulton.

Just before the fight began, Sanderson's helmet came off. During the bout, both players fell to the ice, with Sanderson striking his head.

He passed out briefly, regained consciousness and then went into a coma.

Sanderson, 21, and a York University student, died Jan. 2, 2009, three weeks later.

Fast forward to Tuesday night in Montreal.

George Parros, 33, of the Montreal Canadiens engaged in two meaningless fights with the Toronto Maple Leafs' Colton Orr. They were two of the five fights on the opening-night card of the NHL schedule.

Canadiens enforcer George Parros is examined by trainers on Tuesday after falling face first into the ice during a fight with the Maple Leafs' Colton Orr. RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

In the fourth bout of the night, Parros stumbled over his opponent, smashing his face into the ice.

And just like Sanderson five years earlier, Parros passed out, regained consciousness and was taken off the ice on a stretcher.

But unlike Sanderson, Parros will live to tell his story. And unlike that ugly day in Brantford, we now have the opportunity to learn from our mistakes. And from Sanderson's death.

The fixes need to begin at the NHL level, with rules for needless fighting put into place.

It's easy. Fight and you will be ejected. It's simple, clean and everyone can understand it. It doesn't ban fighting; it increases the consequences.

Don't stop hitting. Keep skating at the highest speeds we have ever seen. Take Don Cherry's national platform away from him.

NHLers are larger, faster and stronger now than they have ever been. The game itself is as entertaining as we have ever seen.

In short, it's a wonderful game. Let's make certain it's a wonderful life.

Parros leaves hospital

Montreal Canadiens enforcer George Parros was released from hospital Wednesday after being treated for a head injury suffered in a fight with Maple Leafs tough guy Colton Orr during Tuesday's season-opening loss to Toronto.

Penn State scandal

U.S. court denies Sandusky's appeal

Former Penn State assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky should not get a new trial after being convicted of sexually abusing 10 boys, an appeals court ruled Wednesday.

Sandusky, 69, is serving a 30- to 60-year prison sentence at a state prison in Pennsylvania. If he does not get the convictions overturned, he is likely to die in prison.

His case roiled the American sports world and led to the downfall of Hall of Fame coach Joe Paterno, who transformed Penn State into a college football power.

Wednesday's unanimous decision by a three-judge Superior Court panel came barely two weeks after they heard oral arguments by Sandusky's lawyer and a state prosecutor.

Defence lawyer Norris Gelman said he planned to ask the state Supreme Court to review the case. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NFL

Brown runs out of time in Arizona

Levi Brown failed to live up to his pedigree with the Arizona Cardinals. The winless Pittsburgh Steelers are hoping a change of scenery might help Brown turn his career — and Pittsburgh's sagging season — around.

Both teams announced Wednesday that the Steelers have acquired Brown for a conditional draft pick.

Levi Brown GETTY IMAGES FILE

The 29-year-old Brown never appeared comfortable in Arizona after the Cardinals selected him with the fifth overall pick in the 2007 draft, two spots ahead of Adrian Peterson.

As a rookie, he started at right tackle for Arizona's 2008 Super Bowl team, then was moved to left tackle. But he never became the dominant blocker the Cardinals envisioned. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UFC

Grant battling through fog of concussion

A star athlete from Cole Harbour, N.S., sidelined by a concussion at the peak of his game.

It's not a new story, but this time the athlete in question is UFC lightweight contender T.J. Grant rather than Sidney Crosby.

The 29-year-old fighter missed out on an August title shot and had to pass on another in December while he waits to feel normal.

Ask Grant these days how he is feeling and the answer is not simple.

"Not too bad. Feeling all right," he said in a recent interview. "It could be better ... I'm a lot better now than I was, that's for sure."

In June, Grant was hit in the head by his training partner's foot during a jiu-jitsu session. Later in the session, he was hit again.

"I don't know which one it was," he said of the head blows. "All I know is just when I was done training, I didn't feel right." THE CANADIAN PRESS

NBA. Hard-knock rookie life over for Raptors big man Valanciunas

Jonas Valanciunas was knocked about by some of the biggest and best centres in the league in an inauspicious start to his NBA career.

Roy Hibbert, Brook Lopez, Al Jefferson, Kevin Garnett — no matter the night, it was going to be a long one for the Toronto Raptors rookie.

And as Valanciunas's debut went, so went the Raptors, it seems.

"Jonas took his whuppin' last year early," said Raptors coach Dwane Casey. "(Opponents) saw something good to eat with a rookie at centre."

But the growth of the young Lithuanian over the course of the season became one of Casey's biggest sources of pride in a campaign he otherwise didn't have a lot to be thrilled about.

"He had to learn. We knew that going in, that it was going to be ugly," Casey said. "But as the year went on you could see a young man growing, and it continued through this summer. It's not a finished product yet but he's getting there and I really like what we have."

The 21-year-old Valanciunas went on to shine for the Raptors in the Las Vegas Summer League, winning tournament MVP honours, and then helped Lithuania to its first Euroleague final in 10 years.

Jonas Valanciunas battles Piston Greg Monroe for position last season. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The seven-foot centre has been all business in his approach to his sophomore season. He put on weight and is noticeably broader across the chest, thicker in the arms. THE CANADIAN PRESS

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	4	0	0	1.000	89	57
Miami	3	1	0	.750	91	91
N.Y. Jets	2	2	0	.500	68	88
Buffalo	2	2	0	.500	88	93

NORTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	2	2	0	.500	91	87
Cincinnati	2	2	0	.500	81	81
Cleveland	2	2	0	.500	64	70
Pittsburgh	0	4	0	.000	69	110

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Indianapolis	3	1	0	.750	105	51
Tennessee	3	1	0	.750	98	69
Houston	2	2	0	.500	90	105
Jacksonville	0	4	0	.000	31	129

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Denver	4	0	0	1.000	179	91
Kansas City	4	0	0	1.000	102	41
San Diego	2	2	0	.500	108	102
Oakland	1	3	0	.250	71	91

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Dallas	2	2	0	.500	104	85
Philadelphia	1	3	0	.250	99	138
Washington	1	3	0	.250	91	112
N.Y. Giants	0	4	0	.000	61	146

NORTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Detroit	3	1	0	.750	122	101
Chicago	3	1	0	.750	127	114
Green Bay	1	2	0	.333	96	88
Minnesota	1	3	0	.250	115	123

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New Orleans	4	0	0	1.000	108	55
Carolina	1	2	0	.333	68	36
Atlanta	1	3	0	.250	94	104
Tampa Bay	0	4	0	.000	44	70

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Seattle	4	0	0	1.000	109	47
San Francisco	2	2	0	.500	79	95
Arizona	2	2	0	.500	69	89
St. Louis	1	3	0	.250	69	121

WEEK 5

Thursday's game — All Times Eastern
Buffalo at Cleveland, 8:25 p.m.
Sunday's games
Seattle at Indianapolis, 1 p.m.
Jacksonville at St. Louis, 1 p.m.
New England at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
Kansas City at Tennessee, 1 p.m.
Baltimore at Miami, 1 p.m.
New Orleans at Chicago, 1 p.m.
Philadelphia at N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m.
Detroit at Green Bay, 1 p.m.
Carolina at Arizona, 4:05 p.m.
Denver at Dallas, 4:25 p.m.
San Diego at Oakland, 4:25 p.m.
Houston at San Francisco, 8:30 p.m.

NHL

Wednesday's results
Toronto 3 Philadelphia 1
Buffalo at Detroit
Anaheim at Colorado
Tuesday's results
Toronto 4 Montreal 3
Chicago 6 Washington 4
Winnipeg 5 Edmonton 4
Thursday's games
Calgary at Washington, 7 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Boston, 7 p.m.
New Jersey at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.
Los Angeles at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Nashville at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Florida at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
NY Rangers at Phoenix, 10 p.m.
Vancouver at San Jose, 10 p.m.
Friday's games
Calgary at Columbus, 7 p.m.
Detroit at Carolina, 7 p.m.
Ottawa at Buffalo, 7 p.m.
NY Islanders at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
Los Angeles at Winnipeg, 8 p.m.
Nashville at Colorado, 9 p.m.

CFL

WEEK 15

EAST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	T	PF	PA	Pts
x-Toronto	13	9	4	0	388	337	18
Hamilton	13	6	7	0	327	364	12
Montreal	13	5	8	0	302	361	10
Winnipeg	13	2	11	0	268	421	4

WEST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	T	PF	PA	Pts
x-Calgary	13	10	3	0	408	312	20
x-B.C.	13	9	4	0	378	319	18
Saskatchewan	13	8	5	0	388	299	16
Edmonton	13	3	10	0	316	362	6

x-clinched playoff berth
Friday's games — All Times Eastern
Hamilton at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Saskatchewan at B.C., 10 p.m.
Saturday's games
Montreal at Edmonton, 3:30 p.m.
Winnipeg at Calgary, 6:30 p.m.

MLB

WILD CARD

Wednesday's result
AL: Tampa Bay at Cleveland
Tuesday's result
NL: Pittsburgh 6 Cincinnati 2

AL DIVISION SERIES

(Best-of-5)
OAKLAND VS. DETROIT
Friday's game
Detroit at Oakland, 9:37 p.m.
BOSTON VS. CLEVELAND-TAMPA BAY WINNER
Friday's game
Cleveland-Tampa Bay winner at Boston, 3:07 p.m.

NL DIVISION SERIES

(Best-of-5)
ATLANTA VS. LOS ANGELES
Thursday's game — All Times Eastern
Los Angeles at Atlanta, 8:37 p.m.
ST. LOUIS VS. PITTSBURGH
Thursday's game — All Times Eastern
Pittsburgh at St. Louis, 5:07 p.m.

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
If a friend or colleague insists on what you think is a silly course of action, don't argue about it. Your best strategy is to agree with every word they say. Come tomorrow, they will have forgotten about it.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Most times you manage to get your way but today others are determined to deny you what you want. There will be a few cross words before the sun sets. Most will come from you.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
You feel left out. Everyone but you seems to have something important to do. Why not turn it to your advantage? If others are too busy to watch you then you're free to do as you please.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Is a certain relationship worth the effort? That is the question you will be asking yourself today but you must not come to any hard conclusions just yet. Come tomorrow, it won't look as bad as it does now.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
You may be eager to spend money, if only to cheer yourself up, but your extravagance could backfire on you later in the month when various bills have to be paid and you don't have the cash. Be prudent.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Try to view a negative situation in a positive way. Most of the "problems" you encounter are not really problems, just everyday events that you have allowed to balloon in size.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You won't be in the most trusting of moods today. You seem to believe that even your allies are plotting against you. It's all nonsense, of course, and by the end of the week you'll be the best of friends again.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Today's difficult cosmic picture may incline you to gloom and doom but don't let downbeat thoughts take over your mind. Make a list of all the things you have to be thankful for.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Don't take it to heart if certain people pour scorn on your ideas. It doesn't mean they don't think you are capable of reaching your goals. On the contrary, they know you are and that's what worries them.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Today's Sun-Uranus link may tempt you to scrap everything and start again from scratch but is that smart? Think of all the remarkable things you have done over the years. Don't waste all that good experience.

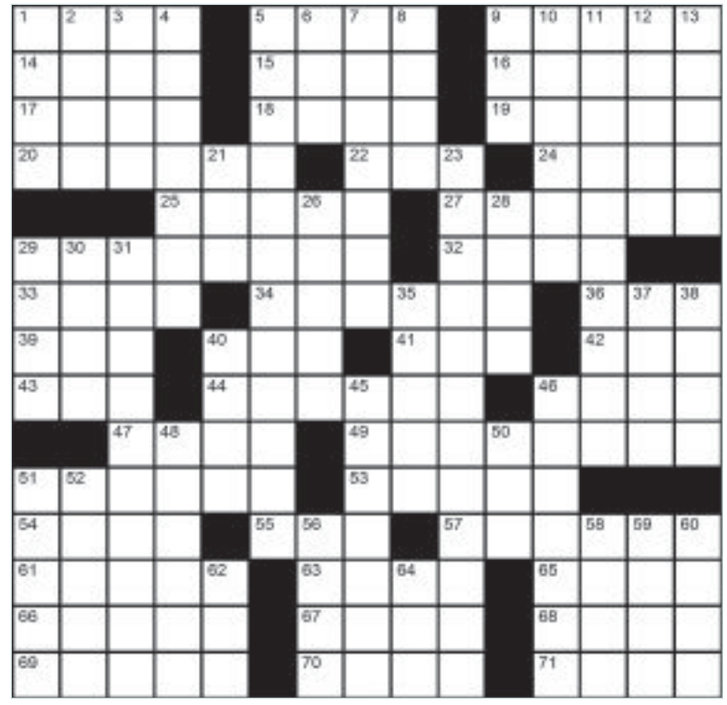
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You would love to escape your everyday environment. So why don't you? Pack an overnight bag and head off into the wild blue yonder. Short-term escapism isn't bad.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
The Sun at odds with Uranus, planet of the unexpected, could bring a nasty financial suprise, but don't panic. Cash flow may be slow but it's not the end of the world. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



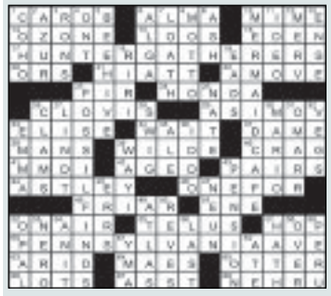
Across

1. Puffy li'l props
5. Networks
9. "Pretty Bad Boy" is by which Canadian band?
14. Canadian country songstress Ms. Yates
15. Mine passage
16. Intro-to-French verb
17. Lang. of Rome
18. "Hard Core __" (1996)
19. Wait on
20. Canadian football trophy, __ Cup
22. Chapeau: English
24. Canadian rebel Louis
25. __ finalis (Purpose, in Latin)
27. Devices for detecting
29. City in Quebec
32. Aware of, as a surprise: 2 wds.
33. Its capital is Muscat
34. Soap brand
36. 0 Meridian letters
39. Driveway covering
40. Scribble something swiftly
41. Not he
42. Particular loaf
43. UK record label
44. Ironed pants lines
46. Director Mr. Reiner
47. Margarine
49. Treason
51. Harmless, healthwise
53. Skincare formula
54. Souls: French
55. Nevertheless
57. Drummer on "The Muppets"
61. Coffee serving
63. Deeply absorbed
65. Volcanic rock
66. Traditional toys
67. Prie-__ (Prayer bench)
68. "The __ in Winter" (1968)
69. Rosebud, and others
70. Adam & The __
71. Prince Charles' sister

Down

1. 154 in ancient Rome
2. Wee bit
3. Mommy's mom, mini-ly
4. California's techie region, __ Valley
5. Arctic animal grouping sight: 2 wds.
6. Tokyo, once
7. '80s rocker's coiffure look: 2 wds.
8. Ancient portico of Greece
9. Car's fill up
10. Exceed
11. Oscar Wilde novel, The Picture of __ __
12. Scuba-using person
13. Mr. Hershiser's of baseball
21. H2O, in Hull
23. Seven-time WWE women's champ from Richmond Hill, Ontario: 2 wds.
26. Glide on ice
28. L'__ aux Meadows
29. Memorization method
30. Islamic leader
31. Puppet-on-strings
35. Founded in 1946, __ Lauder
37. "__ Breckinridge" (1970)
38. Recount
40. PC image file format
45. Fast from
46. Prince Charles' wife
48. Put for sale, as a house
50. Flee
51. Resists
52. Internet letter
56. Earth goddess in Richard Wagner's opera Das Rheingold
58. City's central street
59. Makeup company
60. "Penny __" by The Beatles
62. Feminine suffix
64. Monogram of our 15th Prime Minister

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Yesterday's Sudoku

7	8	3	9	4	2	1	5	6
1	5	4	6	7	3	8	2	9
9	2	6	8	5	1	3	4	7
3	7	5	2	1	9	4	6	8
8	9	1	5	6	4	2	7	3
4	6	2	7	3	8	9	1	5
5	4	8	3	2	6	7	9	1
6	1	9	4	8	7	5	3	2
2	3	7	1	9	5	6	8	4

Weather

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
MAX: 17° MIN: 3°	MAX: 11° MIN: 4°	MAX: 10° MIN: 1°

BT BREAKFAST TELEVISION

JENNA KHAN
WEATHER SPECIALIST
"Weather impacts everything we do. Providing the information you need before you head out that door and take on the day is the best part of my morning." **WEEKDAYS 6 AM**

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